



## **DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF EIS**

**Description of Proposal:** This notice advises the public that the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) intends to revise Chapter 332-52 WAC regarding recreation and public access on DNR-managed lands.

### **Need and Purpose of the Proposal:**

Public access and recreation are a component in the management of DNR-managed state lands. **RCW 79.10.120** directs DNR to allow multiple use of the trust lands it manages--including recreation areas and trails, education and scientific studies, special events, hunting and fishing, and maintenance of scenic areas and historic sites – when such uses are compatible with trust land management. **RCW 43.12.065** (in accordance with RCW 34.05) gives DNR authority to adopt and enforce rules that pertain to the promotion of public safety and the protection of public property on DNR-managed lands.

Written in 1970, Chapter 332-52 WAC is outdated. Since then, there have been a number of technological advances in relationship to recreation vehicles, such as off-road vehicles (i.e. motorcycles, all terrain vehicles), mountain bicycles and four-wheel drive vehicles. Additional recreational uses present on DNR-managed land include hunting, horseback riding, scenic driving, hiking, picnicking, berry picking and mushroom gathering.

The department is also faced with how best to manage the varying types of recreational uses and users, as the number of recreation enthusiasts accessing DNR-managed lands is estimated to be over nine million visitors each year. It is the intention of the department in revising Chapter 332-52 WAC to provide a safer, more enjoyable experience for the public as they access and recreate on DNR lands.

**Proponent:** Department of Natural Resources, Asset Management and Protection Division

**Location of proposal:** The rule will apply, as appropriate, to DNR-managed trust uplands and roads; Natural Resource Conservation Areas and Natural Area Preserves; and Aquatic lands and uplands associated with water recreation facilities.

**Lead agency:** Department of Natural Resources

*EIS required.* The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared.

**The lead agency has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:** The following are potential categories for the rule revisions:



General rules across public lands apply to the use of fire, firearms and alcohol on public lands. This category promotes peace and quiet, while instructing the public not to destroy or remove public resources, litter or solicit while visiting these lands.

Road Use describes general rules governing vehicle use on DNR-managed roads such as passing, vehicular right of way and following another vehicle. Also in this category, the use of recreation vehicles on roads is described.

Developed Recreation Facilities will address any DNR-built site, trail or structure on public land for recreational purposes, including but not limited to trails, trailheads; campgrounds, picnic areas, water recreation sites and ski huts. General rules included for all of the above examples, while specific rules for campgrounds and water recreation sites are outlined in this category.

Organized Events will address any event sponsored by an individual, recognized club(s) or organization(s), that generally involves 30 or more participants and/or is advertised to the general public in advance with a predetermined time and place. General rules for organized events are included within this category.

Dispersed Recreation includes recreation that occurs on DNR-managed lands but that is outside the boundaries of developed recreation facilities and trails. Specific examples in this category are: hunting and fishing, recreational target shooting and recreational harvest of forest products for personal use.

Directing Access includes such topics as road closures, lease land closures and/or temporary closures on leased land, compliance with signage and self-registration.

Volunteer Contributions means gift or donations given to DNR. This category outlines the requirements in accepting gifts or donations. Last legislative session, DNR received the statutory authority to accept volunteer contributions. (Chapter 43.30.385 RCW)

Four categories with the existing rules which will remain, but may be updated, include: 1.) Milwaukee Road Corridor, 2.) Enforcement, 3.) Penalties, and 4.) Effective Dates.

**Scoping:** Federal, state, county and local municipalities, affected tribes and members of the public are invited to comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The methods and deadline for giving us your comments are: Submit oral or written comments at any of the public meetings listed below, or submit written comments to:

**Address:** Washington Department of Natural Resources  
SEPA Center  
P.O. Box 47015  
Olympia, WA 98504-7015  
**Phone:** (360) 902-1634 **Fax:** (360) 902-1789  
**Email:** [sepacenter@wadnr.gov](mailto:sepacenter@wadnr.gov)

All comments must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on November 15, 2004. This will be an expanded scoping period.

**Notice of Public Meetings:**

The Department of Natural Resources encourages your active participation in the rule-making process. The schedule for the public meetings is as follows:

Lacey: October 19, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

Lacey Community Center at Woodland Creek Community Park  
6729 Pacific Avenue SE  
Lacey, WA 98509-3400

Mount Vernon: October 20, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

Best Western Cotton Tree Inn & Convention Center, Orcas Room  
2401 Riverside Drive  
Mount Vernon, WA 98362

Port Angeles: October 21, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

Peninsula College, A-12  
1502 E Lauridsen Blvd  
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Vancouver: October 26, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

Red Lion, Quayside/Portside Room  
100 Columbia Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660

Spokane: October 27, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

Hilton Garden Inn, Spokane Airport – Granite Room  
9015 West Highway 2  
Spokane, WA 99224

Seattle: October 28, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

The Mountaineers, Tahoma 2 Room  
300 Third Avenue West  
Seattle, WA 98119

**Notice of Public Meetings, continued:**

Okanogan: November 3, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

Okanogan Inn

1 Apple Way

Okanogan, WA 98840

Ellensburg: November 4, 2004

TIME: 6-8 pm

Central Washington University, Black Hall 150

400 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Ellensburg, WA 98926

**Responsible official:** Gretchen Nicholas

**Position/Title:** Land Management Division Manager

**Phone:** (360) 902 -1600

**Address:** Washington State Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 47027,  
Olympia, WA 98504-7027

**Signature:** Gretchen Nicholas

**Date:** Sept. 27, 2004